

THE TITHE COMMISSION

The title-owning clergy will be grateful that you have allowed Bishop Bidwell to draw attention to the urgency of the inquiry into the tithing question. May I add a plea? It is that the Royal Commission will take evidence not only from the Governors of Q.A.B. and from the representatives of the tithe-payers, but also from the ordinary parish priests, who are the big ground between the upper and the nether millstone, and who never get a hearing whenever their spiritual or material interests are at stake?—The Rev. HOWARD DORSON, Huntingfield Rectory, Halesworth, Suffolk.

SOUTHERN IRISH LOYALISTS

We must help the Irish loyalists in some practical way if need arises. One such way suggests itself. If the Free State decides to sever its connexion with this country all those Southern Irish who hold positions of various kinds under the Crown, unless they take up British nationality, will naturally retire from them. They will not be able nor will they wish to continue to hold them. This process of retirement will create a large number of vacancies in the lower grades of the Services, and for such the children of the loyal Irish may well have a preferential claim.—Mr. W. A. J. ARCHBOLD, Ostend.

EAT MORE HERRINGS

I notice with interest a letter in your columns on the subject of herrings. Your correspondent is perfectly correct in what he writes about what happened at Wick. Similar happenings occur at all herring ports when occasionally such a glut of herrings is landed that it is impossible to deal with them and sometimes it is necessary to dump them into the sea. There is no real scarcity of herrings at this time of the year. Mr. A. BECKETT, Secretary, the English Herring Catchers' Association, Limited, Ocean View, 28, Suffolk Road, Lowestoft.

MULBERRY JAM AND JELLY

We have a fine old mulberry said to date from the time when James I. cultivated the trees for silkworms at Theobalds near by. It renews its youth whenever a branch breaks off, and bears profusely. The following receipts are advised:

For Jam:—Wash, add a few white berries. Cut to size and strain according to taste. Let simmer in own juice until tender. Add sugar pound for pound, and cook until jam thickens and sets.

For Jelly:—Use hard fruit. Allow one quart of cold water to one quart of fruit. Boil gently for about an hour. Add another quart of cold water. Strain through another sieve, mashing fruit with a wooden spoon. Strain

Mulberries bottle well in a syrup being brought up to a heat of 180deg. and kept at that for 20 minutes.—Mrs. Koch, Forty Hill Vicarage, Enfield.

HARDY AND MAIDEN, 2005

Your correspondent, Mr. W. H. Graham, is wrong in supposing the Ring written of in the Mayor of Casterbridge " to be Maiden Castle; it is the Roman amphitheatre, Maumbury Rings, which stands close by the Southern Railway station on the Weymouth road. Hardy says "some boys had lately tried to impart gaiety to the ruin by using the central arena as a cricket ground." They would scarcely find it necessary to walk to Maiden Castle, which is a mile from Dorchester, but they are still using the "accessible" Ring for their games.—Mrs. J. G. BULLOCKE, Sandford House, Wareham, Dorset.

GROVE LODGE, HIGHGATE

As a one-time owner of No. 4, The Grove, Highgate, and having spent many happy years there with my husband and children, I write to support Mr. Priestley's protest against the building of flats on the site of that charming residence known as South Grove House.—Mrs. COLIN BROWN, Old Meadow, South Zeal, Okehampton, Devon.

LORD ACTON AND BOLINGBROKE 291

A correspondent in one of your recent issues suggested that Lord Acton had made the generalization that political assassination has rarely or never affected the course of history. He had evidently overlooked Acton's essay on Machiavelli, contributed as an introduction to L. Arthur Burd's edition of *Il Principe*. Oxford

1891. Acton writes of Machiavelli:-
He is the earliest conscious and articulate exponent of certain living forces in the present world.
Where it is impossible to praise, to defend, or to excuse, the burden of blame may yet be lightened by adjustment and distribution, and he is more rationally inartificial than illustrated by lights falling not only from the corner of his eye but from our own, which has seen the course of his history twenty-five times diverted by actual or attempted crime.
—MR. PERCY U. R.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF DATA

The regulations to restrict motor-horns in London during certain hours are an admirable attempt to reduce noise at night. Anyone who has watched the traffic in Paris since a similar rule came into force there will have seen that during the "forbidden hours," instead of sounding their horns at street corners, drivers give notice of their intentions by flashing on their headlights in the dipper. This method of practice is likely to develop here. Since quite a large proportion of London taxis is fitted with "silent" engines, it is hard to believe that there will be a hue and cry against drivers deprived of any means of indicating their presence in an emergency, unless a regulation is also made compelling all motor-vehicles to carry a special "night" horn.

58, Mortimer Court, Abbey Road, N.W.

COLERIDGE'S HOUSE IN BRISTOL

Inquiries in Bristol have elicited the information that there is no immediate prospect of the demolition of the house in College Street, Bristol, where Coleridge and Southey lodged. Your correspondent says how inadequate and inaccurate the tablet on the house is. I agree with him. The inscription is: "Samuel Taylor Coleridge, poet, lived here in 1794." The residence of Southey, who was a native of Bristol, is completely ignored!—Mr. C. ROY HUDLESTON, The Grove, Winterbourne, near Bristol.

AIR MAILS

Many good reasons have been advanced for the carriage of all first-class Empire mails by air, but it always seems to be taken for granted that a low flat rate must be uneconomic. Is this so? Imperial Airways have been carrying mails for 10 years, the Post Office know the number of letters to be handled. Cannot these authorities let us know if a rate of, say, 14d. for the first 4oz., or 2½d. for the first ounce would enable an adequate return to be made on the capital involved?—**MR. W. L. NAYLOR, Mansfield.**

NORFOLK HOWARD®

The letter of Mr. Rowland Hopwood giving "Norfolk Howard" as a Victorian name for the bug clears up a perplexity that has been mine for many years. I remember an old joiner saying to my mother, "These 'ere 'notlicks cums over in the aunchins of ferrin doors. That's 'ow we git 'em."—The REV. ROBERT E. BECKLEY, Wotton Vicarage, Aylesbury.

NATURE IN LONDON

Having read your interesting leading article on Nature in the City I wonder if any of your readers have seen the pair of hawks that have been in residence since the early spring high up in the Victoria Tower of the Houses of Parliament.—MR. GEORGE RYDOUT, 10, Great College Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

BATS

I should like to say that here in North Wilts, near Swindon, the scarcity of bats last autumn and this year has been most remarkable. Indeed there are hardly any about where in previous years they abounded. There must have been a plague among them.—CANON E. H. GODDARD, Cliffe Vicarage, Swindon.

WASP STINGS

The efficacy of any remedy for a wasp sting probably depends to a large extent upon the health of the victim. I find ordinary salad oil smeared over and around the puncture entirely satisfactory, all pain disappearing in five minutes and the redness of the skin in less than an hour. I had four stings on one arm the other day as a result of disturbing a nest. Salad oil removed all pain in three minutes and with no after effects.—B. COATHUPE, *Journeys* End, Higher Lincombe Road, Torquay.

AERIAL BOMBING

Professor Lindemann agrees that world opinion is opposed to burglary, and sarcastically adds that Mr. Mander no doubt locks his door at night. Sane citizens like Mr. Mander do not meet the threat of burglary by devising and selling jermies. That is to say, we do not meet burglary with augmented potential burglary. We use a universally approved police against house-breaking, and this is precisely what Mr. Mander proposes in regard to aggressors.—MR. MARK BARR, Athenaeum.

Points from Letters.

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